



*Better Buildings Residential Network  
Peer Exchange Call Series*

*Environmental Justice & Residential Energy Efficiency*

June 10, 2021

# Agenda and Ground Rules

- Agenda Review and Ground Rules
- Opening Poll
- Residential Network Overview and Upcoming Call Schedule
- Featured Speakers
  - **Cecilia Martinez**, White House Council on Environmental Quality
  - **Jamal Lewis**, Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
  - **Jacqui Patterson**, NAACP
- Open Discussion
- Closing Poll and Announcements

## Ground Rules:

1. **Sales of services and commercial messages are not appropriate** during Peer Exchange Calls.
2. Calls are a safe place for discussion; **please do not attribute information to individuals** on the call.

*The views expressed by speakers are their own, and do not reflect those of the Dept. of Energy.*

# Better Buildings Residential Network

## Join the Network

### Member Benefits:

- Recognition in media and publications
- Speaking opportunities
- Updates on latest trends
- Voluntary member initiatives
- One-on-One brainstorming conversations

### Commitment:

- Members only need to provide *one number*: their organization's number of residential energy upgrades per year, or equivalent.

### Upcoming Calls (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays):

- *6/24: Residential Energy Efficiency and Jobs: The State of the COVID Recovery*
- *7/08: In Hot Water? Residential Efficiency, Affordability & Technology*
- *7/22: Like a Heat Wave: Summer Healthy, Efficient Housing Challenges*

Peer Exchange Call summaries are posted on the Better Buildings [website](#) a few weeks after the call

For more information or to join, for no cost, email [bbresidentialnetwork@ee.doe.gov](mailto:bbresidentialnetwork@ee.doe.gov), or go to [energy.gov/eere/bbrn](https://energy.gov/eere/bbrn) & click Join



**Cecilia Martinez**  
***White House Council on Environmental Quality***

# EJ Whole of Government Approach

Establish White House whole of government EJ FACA – The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Establish White House EJ Interagency Council

- Previously convened by EPA

Justice40 Investments. 40% of overall investment benefits flow to disadvantaged communities in

- Clean energy and energy efficiency
- Clean transit
- Affordable and sustainable housing
- Training and workforce development
- Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- Critical clean water infrastructure

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

- Publish interactive maps highlighting disadvantaged communities



# Environmental Justice: A Review of the Whole of Government Agenda

Cecilia Martinez, PhD  
Senior Director for Environmental Justice  
Council on Environmental Quality



## Executive Order Justice40

Publish recommendations on how certain Federal investments might be made toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities (CEQ, OMB, National Climate Advisor, in consultation with WH EJ IAC)

- Clean energy and energy efficiency
  - Clean transit
  - Affordable and sustainable housing
  - Training and workforce development
  - Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
  - Critical clean water infrastructure
- Agencies shall identify applicable program investment funds and consider interim investment guidance to relevant program staff.



# Justice40

## Key Decision points

- Definition of “disadvantaged community
- Definition of benefit Identification of current programs (OMB taking lead)
  - Identification of current programs; current programs that can be directed; potential new programs
    - Interagency leveraging of resources
    - Public/private partnerships
    - Capacity building and outreach support

## Agency specific and inter-agency programs

- EPA, DOE, DOT, DOL, HHS, HUD, NIEHS, FEMA, etc.)





# Justice40 Investments:

Collect and summarize data about covered programs

Consultation and briefing with agencies and other IWGs (Energy Communities and Health Equity) on Justice40 actions/recommendations

## **Benefit definition**

Consultation with EJ IAC, WHEJAC and other stakeholders

Development of “disadvantaged” definition

Consultation with stakeholders

**Recommendations on Justice40 program investments from CEQ,  
OMB, National Climate Advisor**



# Screening Tool (CEJST)

## **Identify users or set of users/stakeholders**

EJ community and general public

Government decision-makers (local, state, tribal as well as federal)

## **Stakeholder/user engagement**

## **Objectives and Purposes include:**

Public information tool

Identification/reconciliation of Justice40 communities

Agency performance scorecard

## **Screening Conceptual Framework**

Cumulative indices/areas of concern/threshold analyses

Agency performance metrics

Indicator development

## **Data**

National data sets

Agency-relevant data



# American Jobs Plan

**Build, Preserve, and Retrofit More Than Two Million Homes and Commercial Buildings, Modernize Our Nation's Schools and Child Care Facilities, and Upgrade Veterans' Hospitals and Federal Buildings.**

Building, rehabilitating, and retrofitting affordable, accessible, energy efficient, and resilient housing, commercial buildings, schools, community colleges, and child care facilities, as well as federal facilities

**Invests in Tackling the Climate Crisis.** Major new climate change investments—an increase of more than \$14 billion compared to 2021—across nearly every agency to: restore the critical capacity needed to carry out their core functions and to take a whole-of-government approach to tackling climate change; secure environmental justice for communities that have been left behind through the largest direct investment in environmental justice in history; and help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to climate change





**Jamal Lewis**  
*Green & Healthy Homes Initiative*

# Environmental Justice and Residential Energy Efficiency

U.S. Department of Energy Better Buildings Residential Network

June 10, 2020

Jamal Lewis  
Director of Climate, Energy, and Health  
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative  
[jlewis@ghhi.org](mailto:jlewis@ghhi.org)



# About GHHI

**Vision:** Advancing racial and health equity and opportunity through healthy housing.

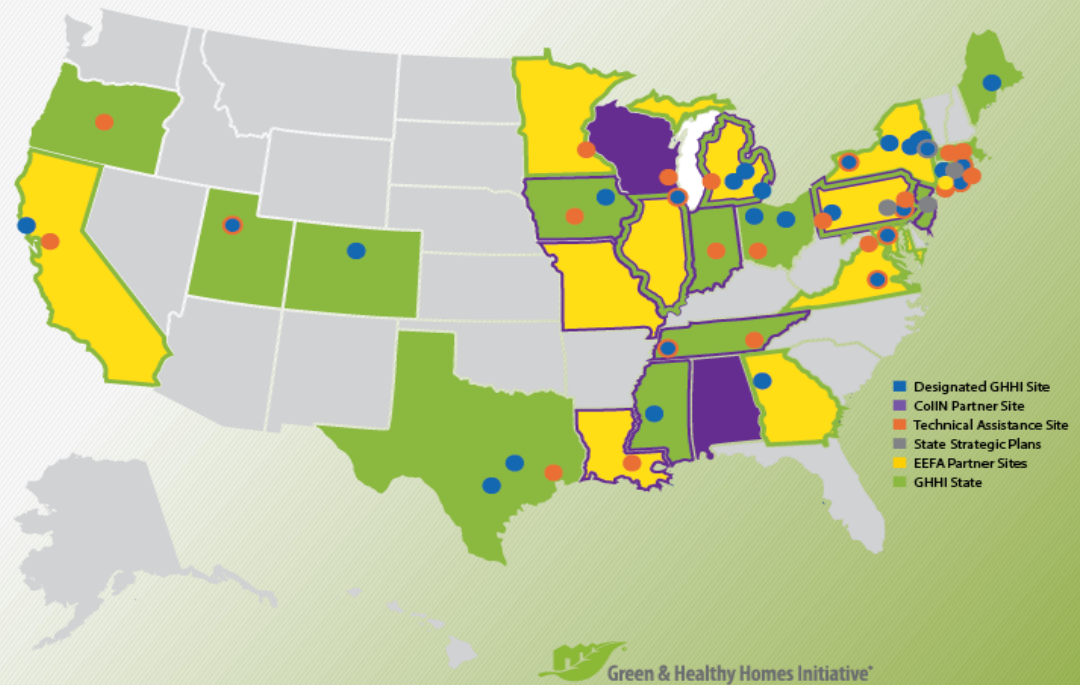
**Mission:** The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative is dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health and the advancement of racial and health equity through the creation of healthy, safe and energy efficient homes. By delivering a standard of excellence in its work, GHHI aims to eradicate the negative health impacts of unhealthy housing and unjust policies for children, seniors and families to ensure better health economic and social outcomes in low-income communities of color.

**Operating Value:** Ensuring racial equity in all policies, practices and actions



# About GHHI - Where we work

- In addition to GHHI sites, GHHI operates and manages a variety of state and local projects across the United States.





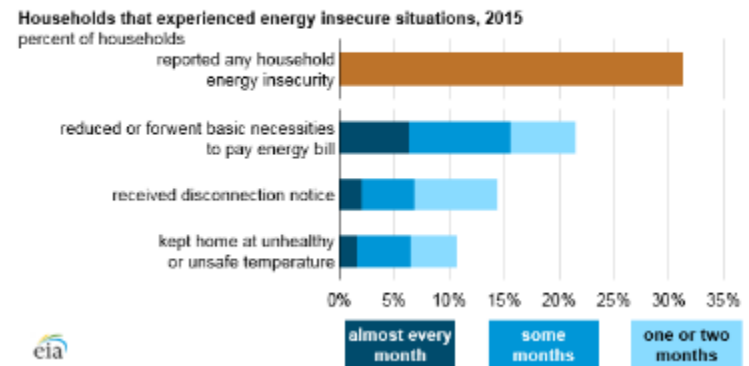
# Understanding Energy Insecurity



# Energy Insecurity: Defining Energy Hardship

- EI is characterized by an “inability of households to meet basic household energy needs” (Hernández, 2016)
  - **Economic:** Unaffordable energy bills; arrearages, financial spiral
  - **Physical:** Inferior housing and energy-related conditions
  - **Behavioral:** Trade-offs, vigilant energy consumption, alternative heating strategies, foregoing comfort
- National Estimate: 37 million Americans are energy insecure (1 in 3 households)
  - Primarily affects low-income households, African Americans and households with children
- Impacts
  - Thermal discomfort and poor indoor air quality
  - Trade-offs due to financial strain-foregoing other necessities
  - Crisis- disconnection notices and shutoffs
  - Psychological effects

## One in three U.S. households faces a challenge in meeting energy needs



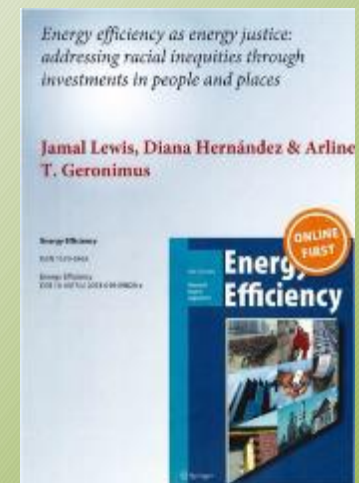
# The Lived Experience of Energy Insecurity

- *“It’s kinda hard because you can never level out [the temperature]. With the temperature being so cold, I even had to go and buy a heater because I cannot cut my heat up on 80, otherwise, I’m looking at a six, or \$700 light bill. At 68 degrees the house is not warm enough for us. That’s even with us putting on extra blankets on the bed... The apartment may not be insulated right, but I’ve talked to the landlord about that. He has put insulation but it’s still cold in here. It’s just certain rooms are hot and others are cold you just can’t get it leveled.” --African American Memphis resident, interviewed in 2018*
- *“That furnace was in there since the house was built. It’s one of those old-fashioned furnaces that looks like an octopus with all the ducts everywhere. It needed to be replaced and I called the heating/cooling person. He had gotten it to run before but then he said, there wasn’t nothin’ that he could do for it this time. He said I should find me another house to live or buy another furnace, which would probably cost \$10,000. That’s when I started using my stove to have a little heat.” -- African American Detroit resident, interviewed in 2018*

# Energy Insecurity as an Environmental Justice Issue

# Racial Inequities related to Energy Outcomes

- African Americans are disproportionately impacted by:
  - Housing Burden
  - Energy Burden
  - Health Vulnerabilities
  - Bundled Burdens/Economic Trade-Offs
  - Extreme Weather/Climate Impacts
  - Energy Transitions
  - Depletion of the Resilience Reserve
- These inequities are caused in part by
  - Racist and discriminatory housing policies
    - Residential segregation (Geronimus 2000; Massey and Denton 2003; Oliver and Shapiro 2006)
  - Historical disinvestment
    - Denied access to loans and other resources to improve housing conditions (Aalbers 2006; Blumgart 2017; Woods 2012)



# Energy Efficiency as Energy Justice



# Energy Justice Framework

- Recognition Justice - the acknowledgement of, and respect for, the complex circumstances and vulnerabilities of individuals and social groups in patterns of cultural value
- Procedural Justice - fairness in decision-making processes
- Distributional Justice - fair and equitable distribution of benefits and burdens
- Restorative Justice - intentional action to redress past wrongs

# Promoting Equity with Energy Efficiency

- **Recognition:** Acknowledge the need for energy efficiency is caused in part by the legacy of discriminatory housing policies and historical disinvestment
- **Procedural:** Ensure that impacted community members can drive and inform energy efficiency and weatherization policies and programs
- **Distributional:** Track and measure program outcomes to ensure equity
- **Restorative:** Design programs to improve housing conditions while improving energy efficiency

# GHHI's Whole-House Strategy

**Based on a combination of education, assessment, and home modifications to address:**

**Hazards Recognition, Hazards Risk Assessment, Risk Management Strategies**

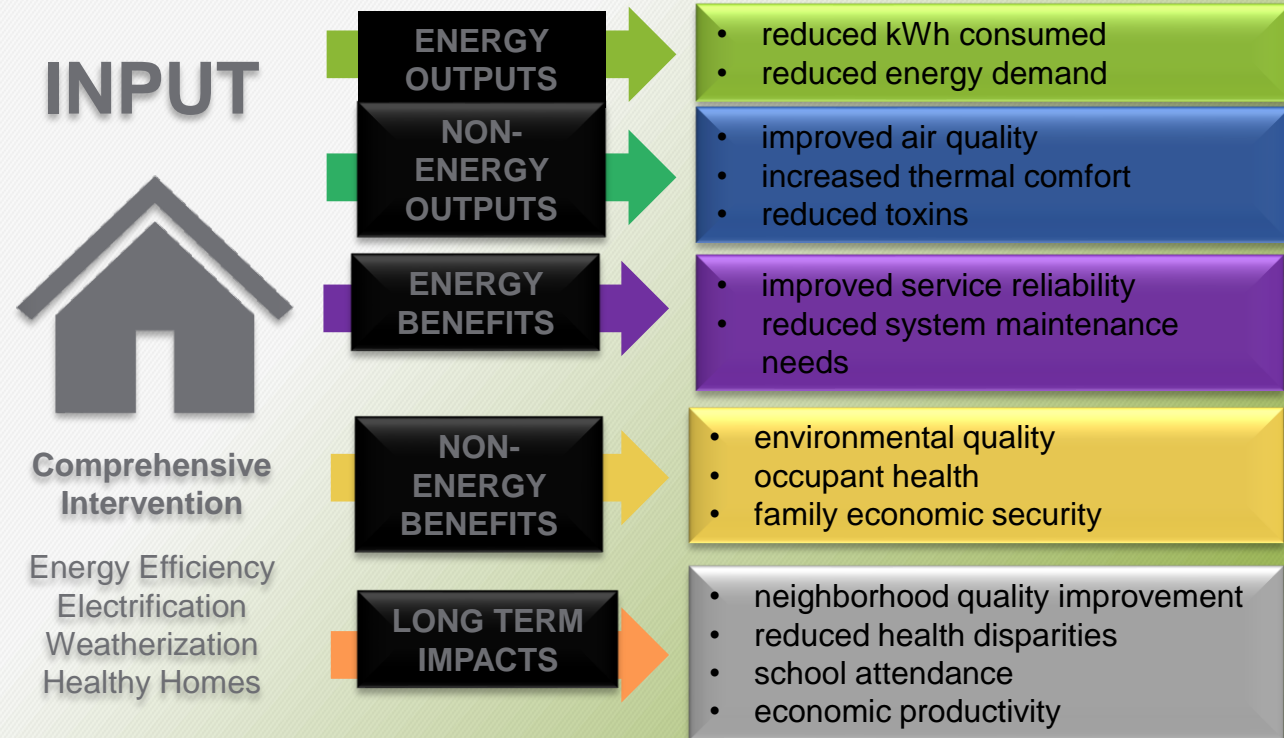
- Lead-based paint hazards
- Asthma triggers (Mold, pests, VOCs, etc.)
- Injury hazards (Falls, fire, poisoning, etc.)
- Radon and asbestos hazards
- Energy efficiency/weatherization issues

**Conducted by cross-trained assessors, educators, and crews addressing housing issues holistically**





# Role of Energy Efficiency in Promoting Equity



# Examples of Promoting Energy Justice

## Intervenor Compensation Market Rate Study

FINAL REPORT

Level 4

## Investing in Disadvantaged Communities

Invest or direct available and relevant programmatic resources in a manner designed to achieve a goal for disadvantaged communities to receive 40 percent of overall benefits of spending on:

- Clean energy and energy efficiency programs, projects or investments in the areas of housing, workforce development, pollution reduction, low income energy assistance, energy, transportation, and economic development.

Receive no less than 35 percent of the overall benefits of spending on clean energy and energy efficiency programs, projects or investments (does not alter funds already committed).

## Sierra Club and DTE Reach Agreement for Groundbreaking Energy Efficiency Pilot Program to Minimize Utility Shut-offs

Program to Pay for New Energy Efficient Appliances Including Water Heaters

Thursday, March 5, 2020

MARYLAND'S INCOME-ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS PAY

550%

MORE AS A PORTION  
OF INCOME FOR ENERGY THAN NON LOW-  
INCOME MARYLANDERS



New Jersey's  
**cleanenergy**  
program™

# Measuring Equity in Energy Efficiency Programs

## Six Dimensions of Equity

Historical  
legacies

Awareness of  
populations

Inclusion of  
other voices

Access  
discrimination

Output  
differences

Disparate  
impacts



# Questions & Comments





[www.greenandhealthyhomes.org](http://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org)  
Twitter: @HealthyHousing  
[Facebook](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)



**Jacqui Patterson**  
***NAACP***



A stylized sunburst with yellow rays emanating from behind the word 'STEM'.

# STEM RISING

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
[ENERGY.GOV/STEMRISING](https://energy.gov/stemrising)

# Explore the Residential Program Solution Center

Resources to help improve your program and reach energy efficiency targets:

- [Handbooks](#) - explain *why* and *how* to implement specific stages of a program.
- [Quick Answers](#) - provide answers and resources for common questions.
- [Proven Practices](#) posts - include lessons learned, examples, and helpful tips from successful programs.
- [Technology Solutions](#) **NEW!** - present resources on advanced technologies, **HVAC & Heat Pump Water Heaters**, including installation guidance, marketing strategies, & potential savings.



<https://rpssc.energy.gov>



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or future call topic ideas to:  
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